weedicides, supply of Rhizobium culture/Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets, farmers' training, staff & contingencies, pipes for carrying water from source to the field, officers training and publicity, etc.

Uncertainty in agricultural production

† 465. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the factors which lead to uncertainty in agri-production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the deadline fixed to do away with these causes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Agricultural production in a country depends on a number of factors such as rainfall, temperature, facilities for irrigation, incidence of pests and diseases, timely application of quality inputs, timely availability of credit at reasonable cost, marketing infrastructure, etc.

(c) and (d) Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production in India is heavily influenced by rainfall. With a view to reducing uncertainty in agriculture and increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include irrigation, agricultural credit and marketing infrastructure. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.